

August 13, 2020

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<Provider City> <State> <zipcode5-zipcode4>

Dear Provider:

RE: Guidance on Well Child Visits and Telemedicine

Consistent with public health emergency conditions at both the state and federal level related to COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing this letter to highlight guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) regarding well child visits provided in person and via telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michigan Medicaid currently covers early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) services as recommended by the AAP per the Michigan Medicaid state plan, including well child visits that are to be performed in accordance with the Bright Futures/AAP Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care periodicity schedule, its components, and medical guidelines. The periodicity schedule can be found at: https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf. Go to www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms >> Medicaid Provider Manual >> EPSDT Chapter for more information about EPSDT coverages.

The AAP supports the continued provision of health care for children during the COVID-19 pandemic unless community circumstances necessitate adjustments to health supervision visits or acute and chronic care visits by primary care providers (PCPs). Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, well child visits have decreased significantly, which has resulted in delays in vaccinations, appropriate screenings, referrals, and anticipatory guidance. The AAP urges PCPs to ensure all newborns, infants, children and adolescents are up to date on their comprehensive well child visits, inclusive of appropriate screenings, complete physical exam, laboratory exams, fluoride varnish, and vaccines.

The AAP has issued “guidance on providing pediatric well-care during COVID-19” which includes:

- Furnishing well child visits in person whenever possible.
- Implementing telemedicine to provide the well child visit, followed by a timely in-person visit.

- Identifying children who have missed their well child visits and/or recommended vaccinations, and to contact them to schedule a visit.
- Informing families regarding COVID-19 safety strategies that have been implemented in the PCP's office.

The AAP has issued new guidance entitled "AAP issues guidance to ensure continued care for children during pandemic" which urges providers to:


- Prioritize in-person immunizations and well child visits for newborns infants, and young children through 24 months of age whenever possible.
- Provide well child visits for children through telemedicine whenever possible, followed by a timely in-person visit to complete any elements of the well child exam that were unable to be performed through telemedicine once community circumstances allow.
- Conduct acute or chronic care via telemedicine and complete any elements of the acute or chronic care visit that were unable to be performed through telemedicine once community circumstances allow.

Care by providers should not be unnecessarily delayed and appropriate referrals should continue to be made for follow-up treatment services. All claims must be submitted in accordance with policies, rules, and procedures as stated in the Medicaid Provider Manual and in compliance with applicable coding guidelines and conventions. MDHHS encourages all providers to refer to the "COVID-19 Response", "Physicians / Practitioners / Medical Clinics", and "Telemedicine" databases for information regarding covered services, including fee schedules, and other billing and reimbursement information. The databases are found at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Billing & Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information.

The AAP specific supporting documentation includes the following referenced guidance:

- AAP issues guidance to ensure continued care for children during pandemic <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/04/14/ambulatory041420>
- Guidance on providing pediatric well-care during COVID-19 <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/guidance-on-providing-pediatric-ambulatory-services-via-telemedicine-during-covid-19/>

Sincerely,



Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration